

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5985
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0604

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SA, WA, RH, PINT
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER VORSTER ADDRESSED PARLIAMENT
APRIL 20 PRIMARILY ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, INCLUDING
RHODESIA, SOUTH WEST AFRICA, AND RELATIONS WITH WEST,
PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES. FUTURE POSITION OF AND
THREATS TO SOUTH AFRICA ALSO DISCUSSED. SPEECH ALSO
CONTAINED HARD-HITTING DEFENSE OF SAG DOMESTIC POLICIES.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN HOUR-LONG ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT AFTERNOON OF
APRIL 20, DURING SECOND DAY OF DEBATE ON PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE BUDGET, VORSTER DEALT AT LENGTH WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS
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OF SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY. SPEECH WAS STRONG
DEFENSE OF SAG POLICY, AND WAS LARGELY RESTATEMENT OF PREVIOUS
POSITIONS. SOME NEW TOPICS WERE COVERED. FOLLOWING SUMMARY
FROM NOTES TAKEN BY EMBOFF.

3. ON RHODESIA, VORSTER SAID THAT HE MAY BE STICKING
HIS NECK OUT, BUT THAT IF THE CURRENT INITIATIVE FAILS,

WHITES WILL NOT BE TO BLAME.

4. ON NAMIBIA, VORSTER REAFFIRMED ERALIER POSITION THAT PEOPLE OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA MUST DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE. REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO FIVE-POWER DEMARCHE, HE SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS ALWAYS WILLING TO TALK, AND THAT HIGH LEVEL TALKS WILL CONTINUE.

5. VORSTER STATED THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS WILLING TO DISCUSS ITS OWN DOMESTIC SITUATION AROUND A CONFERENCE TABLE WITH OUTSIDE POWERS, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT SOUTH AFRICANS SHOULD NOT BE MISLED. FOREIGN COUNTIRES WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH THE END OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, BUT WOULD GO ON TO DEMAND BLACK MAJORITY RULE. HE WARNED THAT THERE WAS A POINT BEYOND WHICH SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT BE PUSHED. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE OPPOSITION WOULD BACK HIM IN REFUSING TO ACCEPT MAJORITY RULE.

6. FOR THE FUTURE, VORSTER SAID THAT HE IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OUTRIGHT RUSSIAN INVASION OF SOUTH AFRICA. HE BELIEVES THAT A MORE LIKELY TYPE OF ATTACK WILL BE ON THE PATTERN OF ZAIRE OR RHODESIA, AND HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE DEFENSE FORCE CAN DEAL WITH THIS THREAT. HE CITED ISREAL AS AN EXAMPLE OF AN COUNTRY WHICH CAN DEFEND ITSELF DESPITE A LACK OF EXTERNAL ALLIES (SIC).

7. REFIERRING TO THE UNITED SATES, VORSTER SAID SOUTH AFRICA HAD HAD A GOOD UNDERSTANDING WITH THE PREVIOUS UNCLASSIFIED

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REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION, AND ALTHOUGH PERHAPS MORE DIFFICULT, HE FELT ONE COULD BE BUILT WITH THE NEW DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION.

8. VORSTER BELIVES THAT INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA IS STILL HIGH. HE DENIED THAT INVESTMENT CAPITAL HAD DRIED UP AND CITED FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK'S DECISION NOT TO STOP DEALING WITH SOUTH AFRICA. ULTIMATELY SOUTH AFRICA'S STABILITY WILL DETERMINE WHETHER INVESTMENT CONTINUES, AND HE IS CONFIDENT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ECELLENT RECORD IN THE PAST, THAT IT WILL.

9. TURNING TO THE INTERNAL SITUATION, VORSTER DENIED THAT THERE IS A CRISIS IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE CALLED THE EVENTS OF LAST YEAR "LITTLE RIOTS" WHICH HAD NO EFFECT AT ALL ON 90 PERCENT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ORDINARY CITIZENS. VORSTER SAID SOUTH AFRICA IS LIEKLY TO EXPERIENCE MORE RIOTS FROM TIME TO TIME, AS DO OTHER NATIONS, AND THE

POSSIBILITY OF URBAN TERRORISM IS A REAL ONE. HE BELIEVES HOWEVER THAT THE POLICE ARE CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH THIS THREAT. HE DEFENDED THE SAG APARTHEID POLICY AS HAVING GREATLY IMPROVED THE POSITION OF NON-WHITES IN EDUCATION, SPORT, TRAVEL FACILITIES, THE MILITARY, THE CIVIAL SERVICE, AND MANY OTHER FIELDS. HE STATED THAT SEPERATION DOES NOT MEAN DISCRIMINATION, AND THAT NATIONAL PARTY POLICY WILL LEAD TO THE END OF DISCRIMINATION. BOWDLER

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